Claims

- 1. An article movement device for use in a storage area having at least one surface thereon to allow the support of said article movement device, characterised in that said article movement device includes guide means (20) positionable in the storage area so as to define a path for movement of articles (16), said guide means (20) positioned on or supported by said at least one surface of the storage area.
- 2. An article movement device according to claim 1 and characterised in that said guide means (20) are in the form of elongate members (20).
- 3. An article movement device according to claim 1 and characterised in that said guide means (20) are positioned so as define a substantially oval track (32).
- 4. An article movement device according to claim 1 and characterised in that said guide means (20) are sufficiently flexible to allow the same to be selectively positioned on the surface so as to define a suitable track width and track shape.
- 5. An article movement device according to claim 1 and characterised in that said path is at least partly defined by at least part of said at least one surface of the storage area.
- 6. An article movement device according to claim 1 and characterised in that said guide means (20) includes support means (110) to allow at least one additional path (104) to be defined and spaced apart from a first path

- (108) so as to form a plurality of article movement paths in said storage area.
- 7. An article movement device according to claim 1 and characterised in that said guide means (20) includes at least one movement means.
- 8. An article movement device according to claim 7 and characterised in that said at least one movement means includes any or any combination of wheels, bearings, cogs, rollers, and/or the like.
- 9. An article movement device according to claim 7 and characterised in that said at least one movement means are spaced apart and mounted laterally along said guide means (20) so as to contact said articles (16).
- 10. An article movement device according to claim 7 and characterised in that said at least one movement means inter-engage with each other.
- 11. An article movement device according to claim 7 and characterised in that said at least one movement means are connected to drive means, said drive means providing a force to drive said at least one movement means.
- 12. An article movement device according to claim 1 and characterised in that said guide means (20) are in the form of one or more grooves or slots (202) along which a series of bases (208) are spaced, said bases (208) provided to allow an article (16) to be placed thereon.

WO 2004/086917 PCT/GB2004/001068

13. An article movement device according to claim 12 and characterised in that said bases (208) are located in and movable along said one or more grooves or slots (202).

12

- 14. An article movement device according to claim 13 and characterised in that said bases (208) are connected to drive means, said drive means providing a force to drive said bases (208) along said one or more grooves or slots (202).
- 15. An article movement device according to claim 1 and characterised in that a series of trays (402) are mounted at spaced intervals on said guide means (20).
- 16. An article movement device according to claim 15 and characterised in that said trays (402) are moved along said guide means (20) between first and second vertically spaced planes (406, 412).
- 17. An article movement device according to claim 16 and characterised in that said trays (402) are connected to drive means, said drive means providing a force to drive said trays (402) along said guide means (20).